

Question #	RFP Section	Question	Answer
1	<b>Section 1.2</b>	Would COVA be willing to clarify or address the issue of one fully qualified source based on possible regulatory/legal issues in providing Long Distance services? There are regulatory/legal areas that may restrict companies from acting as a subcontractor and would require affiliates to be setup as a co-prime in providing a response. In this case affiliates or partners would be agreeing to all terms and conditions as separate entities and this could be accomplished with either one signature on the contract or multiple signatures on the signature page representing the affiliates.	
		The Commonwealth does not permit vendors to propose co-prime contractor arrangements. This position taken by the Commonwealth would have the inadvertent effect of preventing vendors from submitting a bid in response to this RFP. This is because local exchange carriers that provide intraLATA (local) services are prohibited by federal law from also providing interLATA (long distance) services. Federal law requires that vendors provide interLATA services through an affiliate that is fully separate from the local exchange carriers.	
		The Commonwealth's position prohibiting co-prime arrangements will, therefore, substantially reduce competition for the provision of telecommunications services to the Commonwealth. This is directly contrary to the pro-competitive purpose of the RFP process because it will significantly reduce the pro-competitive benefits that the RFP process is intended to secure for the Commonwealth.	The Commonwealth will not accept responses to this RFP that offer a Co-Prime Contractor arrangement.
2		Furthermore, in light of this request for the Commonwealth to revise its position on co-primes set forth above, a forty-five day extension of the date to respond to the RFP is requested. The time is needed to appropriately research, revise or modify its response to the RFP depending upon the Commonwealth's decision regarding the co-prime issues.	To Provide potential Offerors more time to complete sub-contracting and partnering arrangements, The Commonwealth has extended the due date to 2:00PM on April 7, 2002.

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3		As you know, _____ is formulating a response to the Commonwealth's above-referenced RFP. As part of this response process, _____ is currently finalizing key partnerships with team members, which will allow our team to propose a best value solution for the Commonwealth, both now and in the future. One of these developing partnerships is expected to have a significant impact on the proposed pricing for the bid response. As such, we respectfully requests a thirty-day extension to the bid due date, to allow this partnership to mature. This extension will allow the _____ team to propose a solution that will be in the best interest of the Commonwealth.	To Provide potential Offerors more time to complete sub-contracting and partnering arrangements, The Commonwealth has extended the due date to 2:00PM on April 7, 2002.																
4	4.2.8	How many trading partners are currently engaged with EDI with the Commonwealth of Virginia?	In recent research of this question, it has been determined that only DMV is currently making use of the EDI services through the COVANET Contract. DMV has 3 trading partners.																
5		How many documents are exchanged on a monthly basis?	Approximately 4 Messages a month.																
6		What types of documents are being exchanged?	Unknown																
7		What is the volume of Kilo Characters (blocks of 1000 characters within an EDI document) being exchanged on a monthly basis?	Send: 2.17 KB/per month and Receive: 11.1 KB																
8		Are there additional billing considerations that will need to be accomodated? (i.e. - does the Commonwealth pay for the EDI charges for any of their trading partners? Are any of the Commonwealth's trading partners paying for the Commonwealth's EDI transactions?)	No.																
9	<u>SECTION 4.3.6</u>	Please verify that the Commonwealth is only requesting commissions on 0+ calls/usage and that vendors are not required to provide and/or maintain the pay phones.	Yes, that is correct.																
10		Can the Commonwealth provide 0+ call volumes by site or for representative sites?	The only volume information that DIT has available on the service is overall Volume below:  <div>Average Monthly Pay Phone Volume <table><tr><td>2002 Month</td><td>Total Calls</td></tr><tr><td>December</td><td>462</td></tr><tr><td>November</td><td>752</td></tr><tr><td>October</td><td>661</td></tr><tr><td>September</td><td>860</td></tr><tr><td>August</td><td>833</td></tr><tr><td>July</td><td>687</td></tr><tr><td>Total Six Months</td><td>4255</td></tr></table></div>	2002 Month	Total Calls	December	462	November	752	October	661	September	860	August	833	July	687	Total Six Months	4255
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11		Does this service include 0+ service for prisons? If so, please give the call volumes for interstate and intrastate long distance services.	No.																

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12	<b><u>APPENDIX G</u></b>	Can DIT provide both ends of all PVCs in Appendix G? Alternatively, can DIT identify all the major agencies hub sites? It is extremely difficult to draft a detailed implementation plan as requested in the RFP without this information.	DIT can provide the major COVANET customer hub sites and a count of connected PVCs. See the document posted on the ASD website called "Data Network Hubbed Circuits.xls". Note that as part of the existing Worldcom infrastructure, there are two DS3's that terminate at the DIT Data Center in the Plaza Building. DIT is also a hub site for all PVCs that connect to the DIT network and hosts at the DIT Data Center. In appendix G, there is a column called "DIT ACCESS" that identifies all of the circuits with PVCs to the DIT Data Center. ATM circuits are designated as "ATM" and Frame Relay as "FR".
13	<b><u>APPENDIX I</u></b>	The diagrams indicate that nearly all State Connections to DITNET have Firewalls. It is not clear why this would be necessary. Are most of the Frame Relay/ATM connections protected by a firewall? If so, why?	The diagrams in Appendix I are a representation of typical sites. The actual topology will vary from site to site. All sites connected to DITNET do not necessarily have firewalls. In general, many COVANET sites may not have firewalls installed where the site is connected via layer 2 to a hub site. A site will likely have a firewall if it is connected to the Internet. There are several central agency sites that will provide an internet connection centrally to their remote sites that are behind the firewall. DIT advises state agencies to have a firewall to protect their internal network wherever a connection to the Internet is present.